

CLAIMS:

1. An iris control apparatus of a television camera comprising:

a solid state image pickup device for outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing an object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a short time;

a division unit for dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of predetermined areas;

a detection unit for detecting a first and a second area, each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;

a weighting unit for applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively; and

a control unit for controlling an iris of a lens, through which said light beams are applied to said solid state image pickup device, in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.

2. An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first area is an area in which a mean luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal becomes minimal.

3. An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said weighting unit applies weighting so

that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

4. An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said weighting unit applies predetermined weighting so that a decrement ratio of a level of said long-time exposure video signal of said first area becomes greater than that of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area.

5. An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit applies said weighted long-time exposure video signal to said lens in synchronism with the video signal from said solid state image pickup device.

6. A television camera comprising:
a lens unit having an iris;
a solid state image pickup device, to which light beams from an object are applied through said lens, for outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a short time;
a division unit for dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of predetermined areas;
a detection unit for detecting a first and a second area, each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;

a weighting unit for applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively;

a synthesis unit for synthesizing said long-time exposure video signal and said short-time exposure video signal; and

a control unit for controlling said iris of said lens in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.

7. A television camera according to claim 6, wherein said weighting unit applies weighting so that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

8. A television camera according to claim 6, wherein said synthesis unit selects said long-time exposure video signal for said first area and said short-time exposure video signal for said second area, and synthesizes said long-time and short-time exposure video signals.

9. An iris control method of a television camera comprising the steps of;

a) outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing an object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing said object for a short time;

b) dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of

predetermined areas;

c) detecting a first and a second area each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;

d) applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively; and

e) controlling an iris of a lens, through which said light beams are applied to said solid state image pickup device, in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.

10. An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said first area is an area in which the luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal becomes minimal.

11. An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) applies weighting so that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

12. An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) applies predetermined weighting so that a decrement ratio of a level of said long-time exposure video signal of said first area becomes greater than that of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area.

13. An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step e) applies said weighted long-time exposure video signal to said lens in synchronism with

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the video signal from said solid state image pickup device.

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